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Shore Patrol: Obama approves \$90,000 for breakwater study

By Joe Segura, Staff Writer

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President Barack Obama has approved \$90,000 to study changes in the Long Beach Breakwater that proponents contend could improve shoreline water quality.

The appropriation, signed by the president on Wednesday, had been approved earlier in the month by a House-Senate joint conference committee. The funding had been sponsored by Rep. Laura Richardson, D-Long Beach.

The Army Corps of Engineers now has the funding and authority to review the City Council-commissioned study of the Long Beach Breakwater and East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Study (previously referred to as the "Reconnaissance Study"), according to Tom Modica, Long Beach's manager of government affairs.

Earlier in the month, Mayor Bob Foster praised the progress on the funding proposal.

"For years, our community has pondered

potential changes to the breakwater," he said. "While the city has conducted its own study, only the Army Corps can determine if there is federal interest in pursuing changes. .. These funds will allow the Army Corps to review the city's study and make that determination of federal interest."

The original bill passed the House by a vote of 320-97 on July 17, and the Senate passed a variation of the bill, prompting its move to the Joint Conference Committee, which created the bill that was approved by the House by a 308-114 vote Oct. 1.

The Long Beach Breakwater Reconnaissance Study was commissioned by the Long Beach City Council and conducted by Moffatt & Nichol, a local engineering firm. That study was reviewed in July in a study session.

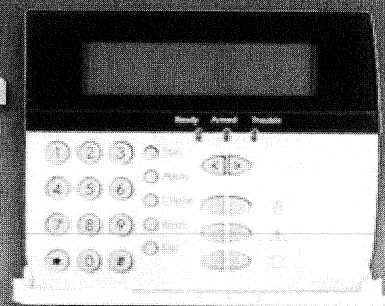
The study is just one of the initial stages in a multiyear, multi-million dollar process that could potentially lead to reconfiguring the breakwater or making other changes in the East San Pedro Bay.

A feasibility study by the Army Corps that would follow could cost an estimated \$3.5 million to the city, matching an amount to be paid by the federal government.

Modica said the city staff is attempting to identify sources for that amount, and a report to the council should be ready by

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early next year.

For more information on the study, go to www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/ga/breakwater.

Spooky benefit

Seal Beach interior designer Barbara D'Angelo has created a spooky spectacle to benefit needy children.

Beginning tonight, her haunted house will take over Pelican Isle restaurant in Huntington Beach this weekend as part of Chimene and Robby Armstrong's annual Halloween Costume Party to benefit Children Today.

The Armstrongs have sponsored the traditional Halloween party for years as a fund-raiser for Children Today, a Long Beach-based non-profit organization that serves homeless children.

"They are all of our responsibility, as parents, as people, as a community," said Chimene Armstrong, a mother of four and director of Children Today.

Each of the seven eerie spaces is scrupulously planned to delight and fright.

"I am creating a feeling of hauntedness with the perfect mix of furniture and props, along

with just the right lighting, music and special effects," D'Angelo said.

Pelican Isle restaurant is located at 16400 Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach. The action begins today with D'Angelo's Haunted House, open from 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Festivities continue on Saturday with the Haunted House open from 12 noon until 8 p.m. Admission is \$5, with prizes for children.

Adults can join the Halloween Extravaganza Party at 8 p.m. Saturday, featuring the Robby Armstrong Band. Each \$25 ticket includes entry to the band area and the Haunted House. There's also a costume contest! Grand Prize for the drawing is a stay at the Ritz Carlton in Laguna Niguel.

For more information: <http://www.childrentoday.org/News>

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